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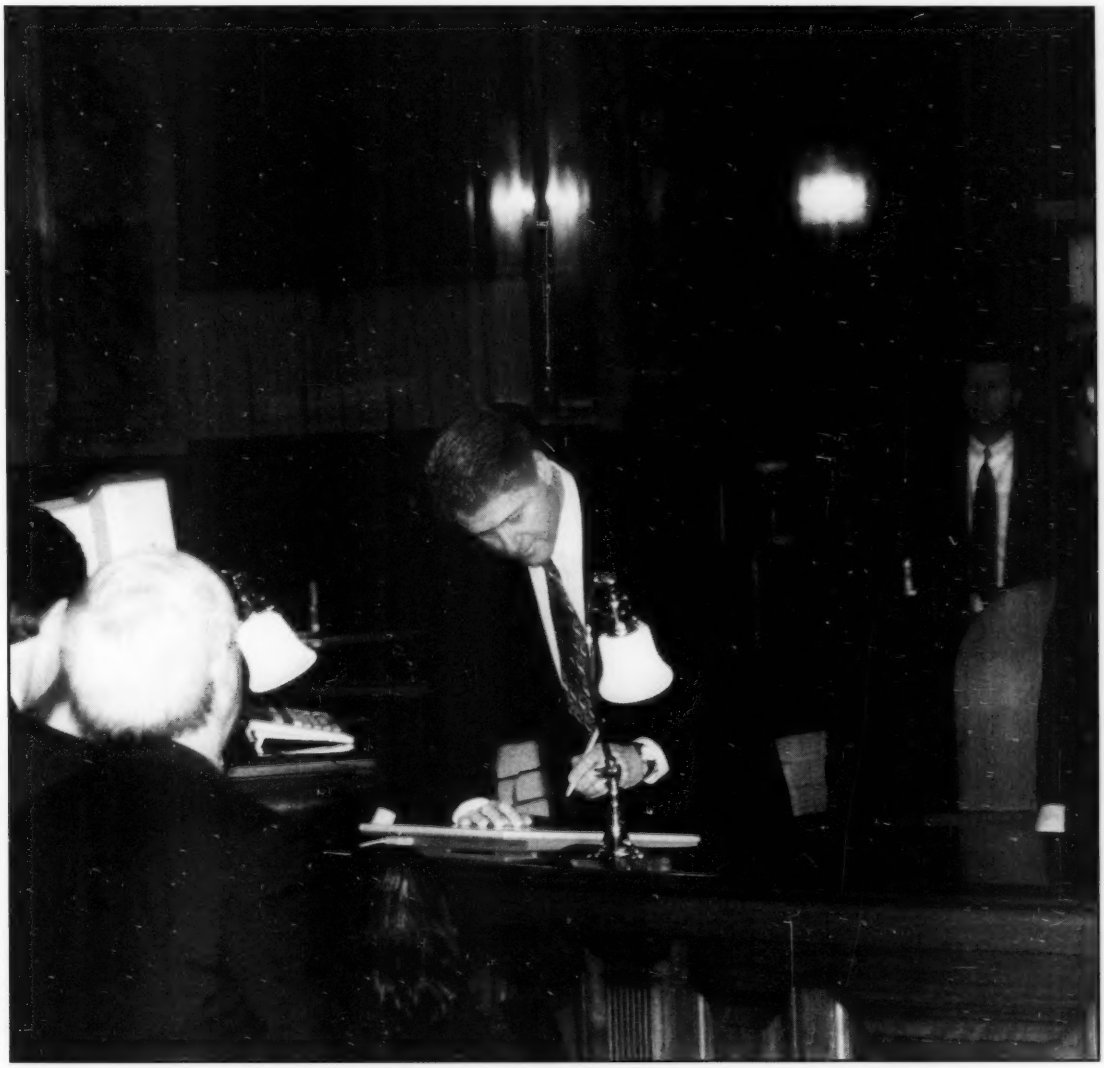

Library Hosts Signing of Telecommunications Act

Also: African American History Month

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Vol. 55, No. 3
February 19, 1966

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
MALINDA B. NEALE, PEGGY F. PIXLEY
Printing Management Section
JOHN J. KOZAR, Publisher

Erica Wissolik

Dr. Billington shakes hands with President Clinton following the Librarian's speech. The president said that the information revolution "will allow every American child to bring the ideas stored in this reading room into his or her own living room."

Wired for the Future:

President Clinton Signs Telecommunications Act at LC

by Guy Lamolinara

In an event that brought together the nation's political leadership, the Librarian of Congress and the titans of the communications industry, President Clinton, on Feb. 8, signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 into law in the Main Reading Room of the Library.

During the ceremony, Dr. Billington was praised for the pioneering role the Library is playing as a major intellectual-content provider on the Internet.

"It is fitting that we mark this moment here in the Library of Congress," said President Clinton. "It is Thomas Jefferson's building. Most of you know Jefferson deeded his books to the Library after our first Library burned in the War of 1812. The volumes that line these walls grew out of Jefferson's legacy. . . . Today the information revolution is spreading light—the light Jefferson spoke about—all across our land and across the world. It will allow every American child to bring the ideas stored in this reading room into his or her own living room."

Vice President Albert Gore, who in 1993 joined Dr. Billington in hosting a Library conference on the Information Superhighway, said, "This legislation will expand and strengthen universal service. . . . It allows open access to the pipelines of knowledge."

The event was historic in two ways: The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was the first bill to be signed into law at the Library of Congress and the first to be signed in cyberspace. After the president signed the bill on paper, he also "signed" it electronically—the entire event was available in real time over the Internet using a high-speed, fiber-optic synchronous optical network link.

Lily Tomlin, playing Ernestine the phone operator, brought her own brand of levity to the august occasion. "Have I reached the party to whom I am speaking?" she asked Mr. Gore, who was trying to reach Washington's Calvin Coolidge High School to speak with students about their use of the Information Superhighway.

Ms. Tomlin appeared on a monitor via the Internet connection. "Oh, Mr. Veep. Surfing the 'Net, downloading images of global climate change again? You crazy guy. It's true what I've been telling my friends. You're not stiff, you're just a techno-nerd.

"Hold on to your semiconductor. I'll load the software right away. . . . You and the president are infonauts," she said as she placed the call and signed off.

"How do you think this bill will have an impact on your lives?" the vice president asked the students.

Erica Wissolik

Dr. Billington escorts House Speaker Newt Gingrich into the Main Reading Room. Rep. Gingrich called Dr. Billington "a leader in knitting the world together" through LC's National Digital Library Program.

"Thanks to the telecommunications bill, I believe that it will open up new horizons for international access for cultures all over the world," said one student.

"I'd like to thank you for signing the telecom bill. It will make advances in technology readily available to a diverse group of people," another one said.

President Clinton began his remarks by thanking the Library for hosting the signing. "My understanding is this may be the first time in three decades when a bill has been signed on Capitol Hill."

The event was fraught with symbolism, from the setting—the high-domed Main Reading Room, which for many is the heart of the Library and a center of learning—to the pen used for the signing: the same one President Eisenhower used when he signed the Interstate Highway Act of 1957, "which met the challenge of change . . . and literally brought Americans closer together," the president said. "That same spirit of connection and communication is the driving force behind the Telecommunications Act of 1996."

The chief sponsor of the 1957 law was Albert Gore Sr., the vice president's father, who received the pen from Eisenhower. "His son is in many ways the father of this legislation because he's worked on it for more than 20 years, since he first began to promote what he called, in the phrase he coined, the Information Superhighway," said President Clinton.

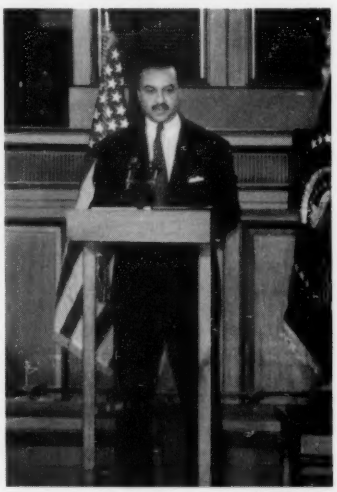
One provision of the bill mandates that schools, libraries and hospitals receive telecommunications services at reduced cost. "This simple act," said the president, "will bring us one giant step closer to realizing the challenge I put forward in the State of the Union [address], to connect all our classrooms and libraries to the Information Superhighway by the year 2000."

President Clinton also said he was "very proud" that the bill requires use of the so-called V-chip, which will screen out television programming that parents want their children to avoid.

Following Mr. Clinton with remarks were key members of Congress who had worked on the bill: Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.); Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.); Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.); Rep. Thomas J. Bliley Jr. (R-Va.); Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.); and Ron Brown, the secretary of Commerce.

Speaker Gingrich acknowledged Dr. Billington as "a leader on a world basis in knitting the world together" through the Library's National Digital Library Program. Speaker Gingrich also praised the Library for its THOMAS on-line legislative system, which he announced to the public at a ceremony at the Library in January 1995.

Secretary Brown, who is chairman of the National Information Infrastructure Task Force, introduced Dr. Billington as someone who is "bringing the Library of Congress into the Information Age. Through the National Digital Library Program, the Library of Congress is creating on-line access to its catalog, its exhibitions and its unique American collections, as well as to congressional information."



Erica Wissolik

Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown: Dr. Billington "is bringing the Library of Congress into the Information Age."

Dr. Billington said that "as an avid inventor and educator, Jefferson, were he here today, would surely be intrigued with this new world of computer and telecommunications technology—and glad to see so many entrepreneurial forces gathered together with national political leaders in the building that bears his name."

Those entrepreneurial forces were well represented in the Main Reading Room by Ted Turner, whose Turner Classic Movies channel helps support the Library's National Film Registry Tour (see LC *Information Bulletin*, Feb. 5, 1996), and by several members of the Madison Council, the Library's private sector advisory group: John Hendricks of the Discovery Channel, Glenn Jones of Jones Intercable, Jean Monty of Northern Telecom, Donald Newhouse of Advance Publications, William O'Shea of Reuters Ltd. and Ray Smith of Bell Atlantic. Also in the audience was Jack Valenti of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Dr. Billington continued: "We like to think that [Jefferson] would also be pleased to see the Library launching, through a new kind of public-private partnership, an ambitious program to digitize 5 million items from our unique collections of Americana for educational and inspirational use in schools, libraries and homes all over America.

"Inventing a new nation required studying a lot of past history in Jefferson's time, and new technologies can help us in our own time to rediscover the old records and values that can lead us on to new creativity. America's free libraries keep democracy dynamic by using new means to give more people more access to the ever-expanding body of human knowledge."

Ending the proceedings, Dr. Billington pointed to the Jefferson Building dome, nearly 160 feet above his head. "There is a lovely lady looking down on us today—as she has on readers for 100 years—from inside the cupola at the highest point in this room. She is lifting back the veil of ignorance and is called simply Human Understanding. May we and all our communications serve her well in the years that lie ahead."

Erica Wissolik

Dr. Billington: "America's free libraries keep democracy dynamic by [giving] more people more access to human knowledge."

Erica Wissolik

President Clinton is congratulated by Vice President Gore and members of the audience after signing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Twenty-five members of Congress attended the signing.

Erica Wissolik

The phrase "information superhighway" was coined by Vice President Al Gore.

San Antonio ALA:

LC's National Digital Library Program Attracts Many Attendees

Those attending the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio expecting to encounter balmy weather were in for a surprise. On Friday, Jan. 19, the day before exhibits opened, local temperatures were in the teens, and only the following morning did the mercury edge up past the freezing point.

By the afternoon, crowds of people were strolling along the picturesque Riverwalk in shirtsleeves, dining at the many restaurants with tables set along the banks of the narrow San Antonio River or window shopping for souvenirs and Southwestern artifacts.

Nor did the conference itself disappoint—at least not judging by the paid-attendance figures and number of exhibitors, both of which set records.

The Library's exhibit booth experienced heavy traffic from visitors wanting to see the latest offerings from the National Digital Library (NDL) Program, the Cataloging Distribution Service, Center for the Book and Publishing Office.

New Library digital collections, such as the Nation's Forum Sound Recordings and photographs by Carl Van Vechten, were available for viewing, as were the other collections that have helped to make the Library's World Wide Web homepage (http://www.loc.gov) one of the top providers of intellectual content on the Internet.

Want to know what Calvin Coolidge or Warren G. Harding sounded like? The Nation's Forum offers digitized versions of their speeches. The photographs of Carl Van Vechten, shot in 1932–1964, are especially strong in the arts, with portraits of singer Ethel Waters, bandleader Cab Calloway, actor-director Orson Welles and artist Diego Rivera, among many others.

Representatives from the Cataloging Distribution Service were on hand to demonstrate new products such as *Classification Plus*, a full-text, Windows-based CD-ROM that combines *Library of Congress Classification Schedules* and *Library of Congress Subject Headings* on a single disk.

Staff from the Center for the Book discussed the "Shape Your Future—READ!" promotion campaign and the Library-Head Start-Museum Partnership.

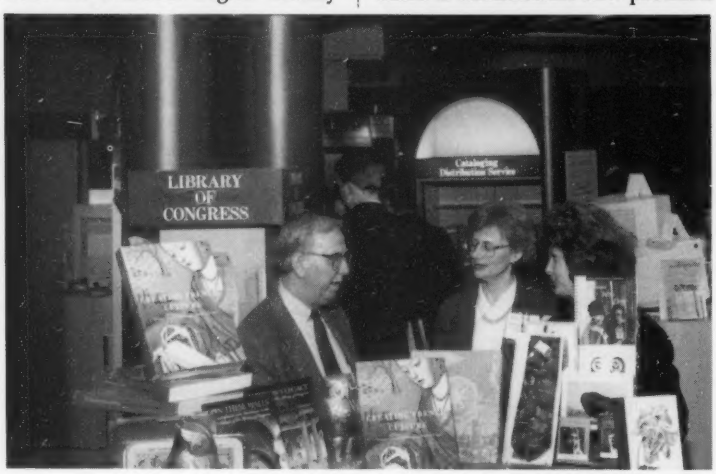
Suzanne Thorin, associate librarian and coordinator of the Library's NDL Program, delivered a preconference talk on copyright in the digital age, an issue of special importance to LC, not only because the Library is placing intellectual content on the Internet but also because it is the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Her speech was part of a symposium sponsored by OCLC Online Computer Library Center.

"If the Internet is a new publishing tool, and we believe that it is, what are the new rules?" she asked. "How will the copyright law respond to the digital age? How can we as librarians facilitate access and at the same time protect the prerogative of rights holders to receive compensation?

"The intent of copyright is to encourage creativity by guaranteeing payment for original work."

During business conducted elsewhere at the convention, the ALA International Relations Committee commended the Library for restoring its international lending program. Suspended in 1993 as a result of severe budgetary constraints, the Library's Loan Division is now accepting on-line interlibrary loan requests from non-U.S. libraries participating in the lending systems of OCLC Online Computer Library Center Inc. and Research Libraries Group Inc.

Also during the conference, the Intellectual Freedom Committee



Oscar & Associates, Chicago, Ill.

Kathryn Mendenhall of Cataloging Distribution Service and Roberta Stevens of Library Services converse with a conference attendee at LC's ALA booth, which highlighted the Library's latest digital offerings.

commended the District of Columbia Public Library for mounting "The Cultural Landscape of the Plantation" exhibition after it was closed by the Library when about 40 staffers objected to its location, content or both (see LC *Information Bulletin*, Jan. 22).

On Sunday, Jan. 21, the President's Program was held, presided over by ALA President Betty Turock. "Information equity" was the focus of the program, as Ms. Turock noted that ALA cannot "ensure equity on the Information Superhighway without the support of its members. . . . The Information Superhighway threatens to widen a gulf between the information-rich and -poor. . . . That's where libraries come in. Libraries have served as the nation's great equalizer" in the dissemination of information.

"Universal access is a big issue, and libraries have a key role to play. You are the trailblazers of a new frontier."

—Delano Lewis

Isabelle Allende, writer of the novel *The House of the Spirits* and *Paula*, her memoirs about the death of her daughter, told how she came to live in America. She is the niece of Chilean President Salvador Allende, who was slain in 1973 during a military coup. Forced to flee, she moved to Venezuela. Ms. Allende said that "I came to America to marry the last heterosexual man in Northern California."

Ms. Allende, the Read About Me author for 1995, stressed the importance of literature and literacy. Read About Me provides works by minority authors to libraries and programs with minority constituents.

"A world without books, without reading would be a cold, impersonal place," she said. "For many minority groups this is compounded by the fact that English is not their first language. The Read About Me program tries to establish partnerships with libraries."

ALA President Betty Turock (left) with Delano Lewis, president of National Public Radio, and author Isabelle Allende, the keynote speakers at the conference

The program also tries to "pick up where government funding leaves off," she added. "When I moved to the United States eight years ago, I was fascinated by its diversity. I was also shocked by discrimination."

According to Ms. Allende, "This comes out of ignorance" and illiteracy.

She noted that there was nothing comparable to America's public library system in her native Chile when she was growing up, "but now this has changed for the better.

"My dream is to see a world agenda," she said, "where race, nationality or class will not define or determine a nation's destiny."

Next on the program, Delano Lewis, chair of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory (NIAA) Committee and president of National Public Radio, immediately won over the librarians in the audience when he said, "We all know we can't do our broadcast without them. The library is no longer a place, it's a function."

But Mr. Lewis noted that such a role mandates a new responsibility. "There are perceptions that must change about librarians, and you have a responsibility to improve your own image."

Keeping with the program's theme, Mr. Lewis discussed his work on the NIAA Committee and its focus on universal access to information. "Let me tell you a little about our work on the committee," he said. "Universal access is a big issue, and libraries have a key role to play. Not every home can afford the hardware and link" necessary to access the Internet.

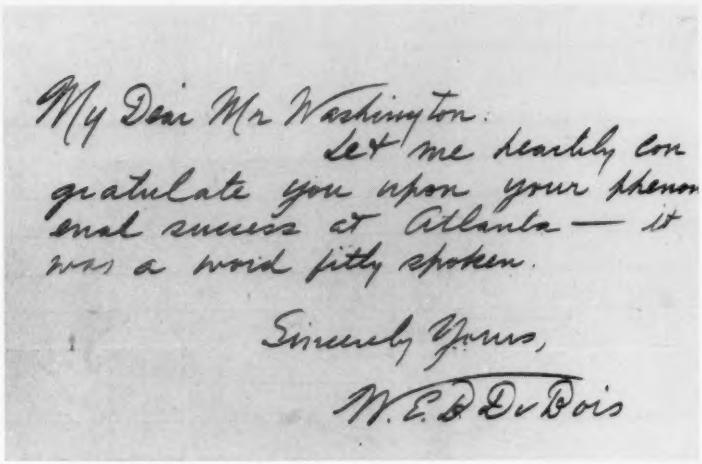
According to Mr. Lewis, National Public Radio has formed "partnerships and alliances" to help it achieve its mission. "We have learned from our success. A program illustrative of [a public-private partnership] is the Library of Congress," with its National Digital Library Program. (So far, the program has raised more than $21 million from private sources.)

"You [librarians] are the trailblazers of a new frontier in the information revolution. I look forward to working with you as we chart America's future together."

—Guy Lamolinara

'Separate Yet One':

Booker T. Washington's 'Atlanta Compromise' Exhibited



My Dear Mr Washington:
Let me heartily congratulate you upon your phenomenal success at Atlanta — it was a word fitly spoken.
Sincerely Yours,
W. E. B. Du Bois

Historian W.E.B. Du Bois was among those who heaped accolades on Washington for his "Atlanta Compromise" speech.

In the Library of Congress, on the walls of the Current Events Gallery – a well-traveled corridor in the Madison Building – hangs an exhibition about a single speech: the one given by Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) on opening day of the Cotton States International Exposition in Atlanta in September 1895. Washington, as a consequence of this speech, went on to become a powerful and controversial figure in the history of America's race relations.

Through original letters, maps, photos, drawings and newspaper clippings interlaced with written narrative, "Booker T. Washington's Atlanta Exposition Address Revisited: A Centennial Exhibition and Reflection" attempts to transport the modern viewer into the America of the late 1800s, with a focus on race. All but one of the items exhibited are from the Washington collection of the Library. Washington was among the first outstanding African Americans to have his papers deposited at the Library.

Booker Taliaferro Washington, the son of a slave, was born before the Civil War on a plantation in Virginia. He moved with his family to West Virginia after emancipation in 1865 and worked in the salt mines and coal furnaces. In 1872 he enrolled at the Hampton Institute in Virginia and worked his way through school as a janitor, graduating in 1875. He then taught at other institutions and was appointed an instructor at Hampton in 1879. He organized the night school and ran a training program for Indians. So successful were his innovations that in 1881 he was chosen to found and lead the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

There, he followed the example set at Hampton and created a program for his students that combined academic curriculum with vocational training. Not only out of necessity but also to teach self-reliance, Washington had his students build their own buildings and grow their own food. His methods worked and became models for other schools.

Washington's accomplishments were acknowledged, and in 1894 he was asked to take "charge of the work of collecting, forwarding and installing the exhibits of the Colored People of Alabama" at an upcoming Southern agricultural exposition. The "colored" exhibits were to be housed on the fairgrounds in a separate "Negro Building" apart from the "white" exposition halls.

Less than a month before the opening, the directors of the exposition again called upon Washington, this time to invite him to be a principal speaker at the opening ceremony on September 18, 1895. This was most unusual during a time of racial separatism. Even more unusual was the fact that "a part of the auditorium [was] to be set apart for the use of Colored People."

The invitation presented an opportunity as well as a challenge to Washington. The press made much of the fact that a black man had been asked to speak at a national forum. Before Washington left Tuskegee for Atlanta, a white farmer cautioned: "In Atlanta you will have to speak before Northern white people, Southern white people and Negroes all together. I fear they have got you into a pretty tight place."

Such a diverse audience as well as the nature of the occasion were daunting, but Washington was prepared. A magnificent orator, according to all accounts, he kept his composure and gave an extraordinary address that is remembered to this day. As one observer noted: "By and by there was more applause and louder . . . and when the Negro finished, such an ovation followed as I had never seen before and never expect to see again."

The speech was reprinted in newspapers throughout the nation and even abroad. The Atlanta *Constitution* (in a clipping in the exhibit)

wrote: "Not a superfluous word in it," "the very best taste" and "not a jarring note in it."

Such a positive response, especially from whites both in the North and the South, was perhaps the result of the conciliatory tone of the speech and its non-threatening character, as well as its summons to African Americans to help themselves. The most-remembered words of Washington's speech are, "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress"—a tacit recognition and acceptance of segregation.

He also said, "No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem." He used the phrase "cast down your bucket" as a metaphor to urge the races to work together for the betterment of the whole nation, and he admonished his listeners not to forsake loyal and trustworthy black laborers for recently arrived European immigrants.

Among the black community, W.E.B. Du Bois, a Harvard-educated historian, praised the speech, writing in a letter (in the exhibit) to Washington: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver (Proverbs 25:2)."

The speech brought instantaneous fame, and Booker T. Washington was lionized. A curator of the exhibition, Debra Newman Ham, compares the popular reaction to the response and instant acclaim for Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

Washington's address was considered so remarkable that every line was analyzed and praised or damned. However, despite its strong plea for economic equality and opportunity for African Americans, because of its conciliatory tone and acquiescence to social and political segregation, the speech was dubbed the "Atlanta Compromise."

As Washington catapulted into celebrity, he became a potent black voice and acted as an adviser on racial matters and patronage assignments to Presidents Cleveland and McKinley (who paid a visit to Tuskegee), and Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Taft.

The "Atlanta Compromise" caused Washington to be admired by white society and many conservative blacks who believed in the correctness of his approach, such as George Washington Carver. However, other influential African Americans who were considered more radical, such as W.E.B. Du Bois, were critical of Washington's calls for conciliation and accommodation, especially his supposed reluctance to fight black disenfranchisement. Du Bois believed in social equality as well as economic justice and felt that blacks should confront whites at every level of injustice. Du Bois also opposed

Booker T. Washington, a former slave who won national prominence as a powerful and controversial speaker on race relations

Washington's educational policy emphasizing vocational training. Both men used the black press to voice their views. It is indicative that Washington established the National Negro Business League, while Du Bois founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Although their strategies and tactics may have differed, both fought for the betterment of African Americans. A strong conservative, Washington's politics and views on race have been compared to those of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Despite this conservative outlook, in 1898, when Washington addressed an audience of 16,000 commemorating the end of the Spanish-American War, he said: Americans "have succeeded in every conflict except . . . in the blotting out of racial prejudices. . . . Until we thus conquer ourselves, I make no empty statement when I say that we shall have a cancer gnawing at the heart of this republic that shall some day prove to be as dangerous as an attack from an army within or without."

These remarks were widely criticized by the Southern press, and Washington qualified his words but he never retracted them.

"Booker T. Washington's Atlanta Exposition Address Revisited: A Centennial Exhibition and Reflection" is a collaborative venture by the Library of Congress and Tuskegee University, made possible by a grant from the university. The exhibition first opened at Tuskegee University on September 18, 1995, in conjunction with a symposium as part of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Atlanta speech.

The exhibit was curated by Debra Newman Ham, an African American studies specialist at the Library of Congress before she joined the faculty of Morgan State University, in Maryland, and Andrew J. Cosentino of the Library's Interpretative Programs Office.

The exhibit is on display in the Madison Building through March 17. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

—Bernice Teli

Bernice Tell is a Washington free-lance writer.

'African Americans Making History':
Howard University President Delivers Keynote

H. Patrick Swygert, president of Howard University, one of the nation's premier historically black colleges, spoke at the Library on the achievements of the graduates of these institutions.

The Feb. 7 lecture was the keynote speech of the Library's observance of African American History Month. The theme of the Library for the 1996 commemoration is "African Americans Making History."

Dr. Billington introduced Dr. Swygert and reminded the audience that the Library has one of the nation's largest collections of African American history and culture, including the papers of such outstanding Americans as Frederick Douglass, George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington, as well as the archives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other organizations.

Although Dr. Swygert was appointed only last August as the 15th president of Howard, he is no stranger to the school: He began his academic career there as an undergraduate.

In the interim, he has served as professor of law and acting dean of the law school at Temple University in Philadelphia and, most recently, he was the president of the State University of New York at Albany. A lawyer, Dr. Swygert is a member of the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and New York bars.

Dr. Swygert began by reminding his audience that Black History Month originated at the Library in 1926, when Carter G. Woodson (a young Ph.D. candidate, later a prominent Washingtonian) inaugurated "Negro History Week." As Dr. Swygert noted, this one week has evolved into a month-long, nationwide celebration.

Patrick Swygert: African-American universities are "islands of tolerance" and "islands of support."

Dr. Swygert also revealed his personal ties to the Library. He recalled that he had once worked at the Library as the lowest of the low—a part-time GS-1 deck attendant. He remembered how proud he felt as he telephoned his mother in Philadelphia to tell her he was a student at Howard University and an employee of the federal government.

The speaker then focused on the historically black schools, colleges and universities, their successes and the achievements of their graduates. Today, there are 117 black schools, colleges and universities in America, and he proclaimed, "each one an American success story."

These institutions were founded in one of three ways. The first group originated as an offshoot of a religious organization, as did Livingstone College, founded by the AME Zion Church in 1879. Others were established as state schools—state-sponsored and -supported, such as Morgan State University in Baltimore. The third group was a mixture, but mainly dependent on the vision and energy of one individual, such as Booker T. Washington, who founded Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama.

Howard University, Dr. Swygert's alma mater, opened its doors in 1867 as a private university. It received its charter from the federal government and its support from the Congregational Church in the District of Columbia.

Dr. Swygert said that despite these varied beginnings, each school remained steadfast to the principle of inclusion. In fact, the first students enrolled at Howard were four white females. He characterized these black institutions as "islands of tolerance" and "islands of support."

Dr. Swygert saluted "the energy, commitment and foresight" of those who founded these schools. They were people who had neither an example nor a mentor to guide them and yet succeeded with minimal financial resources.

When Howard University was founded, only two years after the end of the Civil War, there was serious national debate and doubt about the wisdom of higher education for African Americans. Some feared whether "newly freed persons could function and grow and thrive in a model of education based on centuries of Western European thought. Could former slaves be taught and could they succeed?" asked Dr. Swygert.

In addition to celebrating the longevity of black colleges, Dr. Swygert said, the graduates who succeed as a result of their college experience must also be lauded.

He told a story about Duke Ellington to symbolize the importance of these institutions and their

graduates. Whenever Duke Ellington performed before an audience, he always played a medley of his old hits, such as "Take the A Train." The musicians in his band became bored by the repetition. But Ellington knew what his audiences wanted and never failed them.

Dr. Swygert made the point that the medley should be a metaphor for outstanding graduates of black institutions. Hearing their names again and again would never bore their listeners. For Howard University, the medley would include: former Sen. Edward Brooke (a District of Columbia native), attorney Vernon Jordan, former Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder, singer Jessye Norman, writer Toni Morrison and actors Ossie Davis, Debbi Allen and Felicia Rashad.

"And, every one of those 117 schools has a medley of achievers," Dr. Swygert declared.

Dr. Swygert then mentioned Herman Branson, an eminent educator and scientist, who achieved distinction even though he had no role model. He himself became a role model for other African Americans interested in science.

Dr. Swygert reminded his listeners of their own responsibilities to today's youth and the need to help them achieve their potential, especially in fields not usually open to blacks. "We must encourage blacks to be everywhere and begin supporting them at the prekindergarten level. Our young researchers are the future, and our task is to make their way easier. Every day I touch the future when I touch these young people."

Dr. Swygert exhorted the library professionals and others in the audience by saying: "Your responsibility is a sacred one to preserve and protect the records of this nation. Historians of the future look to you. The future is in your hands. Encourage future scholars to speak the truth. Celebrate the medley!" —*Bernice Tell*

Bernice Tell is a Washington free-lance writer.

American Poetry Celebrated: *Radio Series Showcases Poets*

Grace Cavalieri, a noted poet, will interview American poets and present readings of their works in a series of public radio programs in April and May.

Sponsored by WPFW-FM/ Pacifica-Washington and the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, the series will feature Poet Laureate Robert Hass, Ishmael Reed, David Mura, Karen Alkalay-Gut, Claudia Rankine and other poets who have presented their work at the Library of Congress.

Check local listings or call WPFW-FM for schedule and program information.

"Launderer," one of a series of 19th century daguerreotypes, was featured in a recent *Civilization* story about the realism photography introduced to American art.

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Information Bulletin 84LC01

C. Percy Powell of the Manuscript Division opens the safe containing the Lincoln papers at one minute past midnight on July 26, 1947, as a reporter from CBS Radio and Librarian of Congress Luther Evans observe.

Lincoln and the Library:
How the Collections Were Developed

The Library of Congress contains one of the largest collections of Lincolniana in the world, with two of the five copies of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's own hand. The Library's connections with the assassinated 16th president extend much further, however, and lead in some surprising directions.

The beginnings of the relationship were not promising. On May 24, 1861, newly elected President Abraham Lincoln ignored the advice of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress and named a political supporter, Indiana physician John G. Stephenson, as the new Librarian of Congress.

Not particularly interested in the job, Stephenson had the wisdom to hire an ambitious bibliophile, Ainsworth Rand Spofford, as his assistant. After Stephenson resigned in 1864, the talented Spofford was appointed as Librarian of Congress, but only after he had demonstrated his political support to Lincoln. This he accomplished by posting a petition in the Library (then in the Capitol building) for members of Congress to sign. Between March 1861 and April 1865, when Lincoln was assassinated, approximately 125 books were charged out to the president. However, it is likely that most of them were for the use of his family or staff.

LC's Lincolniana collections began to grow in 1870, when that year's new copyright law began bringing in floods of published tributes, reminiscences and attempts at biography and historical assessment. As a result, Lincoln collectors and bibliographers were impressed by George T. Ritchie's *A List of Lincolniana in the Library of Congress*, which was published in 1903, long before LC acquired its major Lincoln collections.

The tale of how Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, finally deposited his father's papers in the Library is well told in Merrill Peterson's *Lincoln in American Memory* (1994). The papers—in seven trunks—had been delivered rather suddenly on May 6, 1919, under an injunction of secrecy. Soon Robert Todd Lincoln deeded the papers to the Library on the condition that they remain closed for 21 years after the date of his death—which occurred in 1926.

On July 26, 1947, at one minute past midnight, with great fanfare and after a gala dinner with Lincoln scholars hosted by Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans, the safe was opened. To the disappointment of many, including Evans, the 20,000-item collection of Lincoln papers did not contain any bombshells. New scholarly paths were opened, however.

Moreover, the Library's reputation as an important center for Lincoln scholarship was enhanced in 1953 by the acquisition of the 11,000-item Alfred Whital Stern collection of Lincolniana.

The Library's close involvement with Lincoln was reinforced in the middle decades of this century by the personal interest of two Lincoln enthusiasts and scholars: David C. Mearns and Roy P. Basler. Mearns held many administrative positions as an LC staff member from 1918 until his retirement in 1967. As director of the Reference Department from 1943 to 1949, he presided over the 1947 opening of the Lincoln papers.

His books, *The Lincoln Papers* (1948) and *Largely Lincoln* (1961), evoke the Library-Lincoln connection and the cultural climate of the 1940s and 1950s. Basler became executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association in 1947 and was editor-in-chief of *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* (1953). He came to the Library in 1952 and served in several posts in the Reference Department before retiring in 1974.

Lincoln and the Library of Congress also reinforce each other as symbols of American democracy. Lincoln and his words are depicted in several ways in the Jefferson Building, which was begun in 1886 and completed in 1897. Librarian of Congress Spofford, for example, chose the words from the Gettysburg Address that are inscribed on the ceiling of the second floor Northeast, or "Government," Pavilion; the same quotation ("government of the people, by the people, for the people . . .") is featured in the central panel of artist Elihu Vedder's mural "Government" above the entrance door to the Main Reading Room. Artist Edwin Blashfield's "Evolution of Civilization" mural in the collar of the dome of the Main Reading Room uses Lincoln as the model for the face of "Science," which is depicted as America's major contribution to civilization and culture.

Lincoln continues to capture the public imagination—and to "live" at the Library of Congress. In 1975, in a safe in the Librarian's Office, then-Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin discovered a box containing the contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night he was assassinated at Ford's Theater. A donation from Robert Lincoln's daughter to the Library in 1937, the two pairs of eyeglasses, penknife, watch fob, cuff link, monogrammed handkerchief and wallet (containing newspaper clippings and a Confederate $5 bill) were put on public display on Feb. 12, 1976.

For three days in January 1995, the Library exhibited one of its two handwritten copies of the Gettysburg Address—the so-called "first draft" copy that Lincoln gave to his secretary John Nicolay. Plans are under way to exhibit its other copy, the so-called "second draft" that Lincoln gave to John Hay (his other secretary), in 1996 or 1997.

—*John Y. Cole*

John Cole is the director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Roy Basler (left) and David C. Mearns at the opening of the Lincoln papers; Lincoln (top) representing America and "Science" in the dome of the Main Reading Room

Kolchak's Last Stand:

Papers Describe Death of Anti-Bolshevik Leader

Following is the second in a series of articles on rare Russian materials in the Law Library (see LC Information Bulletin, *Feb. 5). The final story will be published in a future issue.*

Traveling on the trans-Siberian railroad, it takes seven days to go from Moscow to Vladivostok on the Pacific. During the turbulent years of civil war that followed the Bolshevik coup of 1917, the vast expanse between European Russia and the Far East was largely controlled by the White army before they were routed

Alexander Kolchak, leader of Russia's anti-Bolshevik forces, tried to establish a democratic republic before he was executed in 1920.

by the Reds in 1920.

On the long road of retreat toward the Pacific, the Whites and their supporters took with them only their most precious possessions. Fortunately for historians, several of the refugees carried not only gold, furs and tea, but also documents that they knew would perish under the new regime.

George Tellberg, the minister of justice in the Alexander Kolchak government, took a mass of documents on which he based his future books. Among them were unique documents about the life and death of Kolchak (1874–1920), whom contemporaries called "the Russian Washington" for his efforts to establish a new democratic republic in Russia, free from the Bolsheviks.

Under the czarist regime, Kolchak had grown up with dreams of exploring the South Pole. He went to the Naval Academy, took part in an expedition to the North Pole, explored New Siberia in the Arctic Circle by dogsled, commanded a torpedo boat in the Russo-Japanese War, then returned to work at the Academy of Sciences, where he tested the first icebreakers.

During the First World War he fought as commander of the Black Sea Fleet. And when news of the Bolshevik coup reached Kolchak in San Francisco, where he was on official business, he rushed back to Russia to fight the new regime.

In 1943 Tellberg donated his Kolchak materials to the Law Library of Congress, most notably the 262-page transcription of the interrogation of Kolchak upon his arrest by the Bolsheviks in early 1920 for treason and counterrevolutionary activities. The enterprising Tellberg had secured this report directly from the stenographer, along with her preliminary notes.

This report has twice been published, first in Berlin in *Archives of the Russian Revolution* (1923) and later as a monograph in Leningrad in 1925. There are notable differences between the two printed versions, and the Soviets have long accused émigrés of having published a distorted version of the interrogation. But in fact, the Soviet edition is based on the copy of the interrogation that is in the State Archive of the Russian Federation in Moscow, whereas the version printed in Berlin is most likely based on the typewritten copy now in the Law Library.

Attached to the record of the interrogation are pages of notes in shorthand, rare clippings from contemporary Russian newspapers, the first American publication about the fate of Kolchak, pictures of the "Supreme Ruler," as Kolchak styled himself, and the unpublished handwritten account by the stenographer herself of the last days of Kolchak.

As the narrative appears to be in the hand of Tellberg himself, it is likely that Tellberg questioned the stenographer shortly after Kolchak's death and transcribed her answers, shaping them into a smoothly flowing narrative replete with such piquant details as the depiction of Kolchak, on the eve of his execution, being driven down the snowy roads of Irkutsk on a sledge toward the banks of the Angara River. Hours later he and the chairman of his Council of Ministers, V.N. Pepeliaev, were executed by a firing squad.

Another significant collection of Russian legal materials in the Law Library collected by an émigré is a series of documents rather hastily assembled by Arkadii Nikolaevich Iakhontov (1878–1938), who served as assistant secretary to the Imperial Council of Ministers from May 1914 to November 1916. In addition to his regular duties, he was directed to report regularly to the chairman of the council on what various local and urban newspapers were writing. He thus met frequently with Chairman I.L. Goremykin and attended many closed sessions of the council.

During open sessions of the council, participants followed an agenda set by the office of the council, and

the discussions from these sessions were printed in the Special Journals (*Osobye zhurnaly*) of the Council of Ministers. Most open sessions were followed by closed-door sessions, and minutes of those discussions about top-secret governmental matters were kept by I.N. Lodyzhenskii and his assistant Iakhontov.

These meticulous notes of secret sessions are the centerpiece of the Iakhontov collection at the Library. They are the only firsthand evidence historians have of the frank discussions at the ministerial level of a variety of difficult issues facing the Russian government during the war: military strategy, nationality problems (especially Poland), domestic politics, the escalating revolutionary situation and the fate of halfhearted efforts at reform. Because these discussions did not occur in the presence of the czar, they were unusually frank.

As a professional clerk, Iakhontov knew the value of the paper that flowed through his hands over the years and kept copies of nearly everything of significance at home.

He was not able to take all of it when he fled Russia, first to Ukraine, where he started to write his memoirs, and then to France, so he called upon a friend of his still in Petrograd to send him what papers of his he could. Among these are the notes of July 25–Dec. 23, 1914, to which Iakhontov then added commentaries and explanatory notes.

At the request of the émigré journal *Archives of the Russian Revolution*, Iakhontov prepared his notes for the meetings of July 24–Sept. 2, 1915, for publication. They immediately became one of the most important sources for the study of the political crisis that engulfed the Russian Imperial government in its last years, and were republished in English in 1967 by Michael Cherniavsky.

The notebook from 1914 remained unpublished, however, and came to the Law Library of Congress in 1954, together with other items such as Iakhontov's unpublished notes for his memoirs and notes from a variety of secret ministerial meetings.

As revealed in these notebooks, the meetings of the Council were fraught with an atmosphere of helplessness and fear. The ministers felt they were bound hand and foot by a variety of obstacles put in their way by the czar, as well as limitations imposed on them by the war. They were afraid of the growing social unrest in the nation and impotent to quell it.

Iakhontov's archives offers exceptional insights into the prerevolutionary period. It is a perfect "anatomy" of a political system teetering on the edge of chaos, one that had lost control of its resources, lost touch with its population and was dominated by indecisive and fearful men. These notebooks should not only be studied by historians to gain new understanding of the fall of the Romanov dynasty, but could also be profitably read by the current Moscow political elite who are trying to maintain a precarious balance between freedom and chaos.

—Andrei Pliguzov and Abby Smith

Dr. Pliguzov is a senior research fellow at the Russian Academy of Sciences who is doing archival research in the Law Library. Dr. Abby Smith is assistant to the associate librarian for Library Services and holds a doctorate in Russian history from Harvard University.

Kolchak (center) visiting the Omsk Hospital of the American Red Cross

Death of a Poet Laureate:
Joseph Brodsky Turned Exile into Inspiration

Joseph Brodsky, 55, the Library's 1991–92 Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, died of a heart attack on Jan. 28 at his home in New York City.

Born in Leningrad (now called St. Petersburg), Mr. Brodsky left school at age 15 and began working as a manual laborer and merchant seaman while writing poetry. He learned English by translating the poetry of Robert Frost and John Donne.

He became a well-known underground poet, and his poems were copied by hand, passed around and eventually seen by Soviet authorities.

In 1964, after trial in a Soviet court, the Brezhnev regime sentenced him to hard labor at an Arctic work camp near Archangelsk. Authorities cited his "anti-Soviet work," "social parasitism" and "decadent poetry."

He was exiled from the Soviet Union and came to the United States in 1972. Mr. Brodsky became a U.S. citizen in 1977. He was a professor of literature at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., and maintained a second home there.

In 1981 he received one of the first MacArthur Foundation awards. His essay collection, *Less than One,* received the National Book Award for criticism in 1986. He won the 1987 Nobel Prize for literature.

His survivors include his wife, Maria, their daughter, Anna, and a son living in Russia.

Following is Dr. Billington's tribute to Mr. Brodsky. This piece was published in *The Washington Post* on Jan. 30.

Joseph Brodsky sustained and exemplified the mysterious power of poetry both in the repressive Soviet culture from which he was exiled and in the permissive American culture to which he came. He was the authentic representative in our time of poetry as the deep moral alternative not just to the cruelty but also to the banality and vulgarity of the Soviet form of totalitarianism.

Whether confronting a prosecuting attorney about to send him off for punishment to the Russian north in the 1960s or challenging the commitment of Russian officials retooling their communist credentials in order to stay in power in the 1990s, Joseph Brodsky's searching honesty never linked poetry with the kind of periodic coddling of favor with repressive authority that so many writers in the Soviet era felt obliged to do.

Poet Joseph Brodsky "sustained and exemplified the mysterious power of poetry" in both the United States and Soviet Russia.

He was the favored protégé of the great lady of Petersburg, Anna Akhmatova, and to hear him read her poems in Russian in the Library of Congress was an experience to make one's hair stand on end even if one did not understand the Russian language. Joseph Brodsky was the embodiment of the hopes not only of Anna Akhmatova, the last of the great Petersburg poets from the beginning of the century, but also Nadezhda Mandelstam, the widow of another great martyred poet. Both of them saw Joseph as part of the guiding light that might some day lead Russia back to her own deep roots.

These deep roots for Joseph involved both the rich humanistic tradition of literary Petersburg in which he was born and the Judeo-Christian heritage that was being rediscovered by artists in the late imperial period. Perhaps no poem of Joseph's is more beautiful than his rendering of Mary's presentation of the newborn Christ child in the temple to "the Prophetess Anna," whom Joseph clearly identifies not only with Anne, the mother of Mary, but with Anna Akhmatova.

Deeply influenced not just by Russian tradition but by the English metaphysical poets from Donne to Auden, Brodsky ends with the image of Simeon holding up the newborn child "to light up the path that leads into Death's realm,/where never before until this point in time/had any man managed to lighten his pathway./The old man's torch glowed and the pathway grew wider."

Joseph helped poetry's pathways grow wider in America at a time when poetry had to follow a much straighter and narrower path in Russia. And the key to his poetry was the sonority of language, for which he surely had one of the most sensitive ears in both his adopted as well as his original language. Essays he wrote in English, "Less than One" and "In a Room and a Half,"

provide a wonderful autobiographical introduction and explain why he writes about his parents in English:

"I want English verbs of motion to describe their movements. This won't resurrect them, but English grammar may at least prove to be a better escape route from the chimneys of the state crematorium than the Russian. To write about them in Russian would be only to further their captivity, their reduction to insignificance, resulting in mechanical annihilation. . . ."

Although he felt even more deeply about the Russian language than English, he was troubled and ambivalent about Russia and never returned after he was exiled.

He thought that people who are restless or fearful or lonely or weary might pick up poetry and discover that others had experienced these emotions before.

Joseph had difficulty understanding why poetry did not draw the large audiences in the United States that it did in Russia. He was proud of becoming an American citizen in 1977 (the Soviets having made him stateless upon his expulsion in 1972) and valued the freedoms that life in the United States provided. But he regarded poetry as "language's highest degree of maturity," and wanted everyone to be susceptible to it. While poet laureate, he suggested that inexpensive anthologies of the best American poets be made available in hotels and airports, hospitals and supermarkets. He thought that people who are restless or fearful or lonely or weary might pick up poetry and discover unexpectedly that others had experienced these emotions before and had used them to celebrate life rather than escape from it.

Joseph's idea was picked up—and thousands of such books have in fact been placed where people may come across them out of need or curiosity.

Joseph's own poetry ranged widely. Many of his poems were dedicated to others—Thomas Venclova, Octavio Paz, Robert Lowell, Derek Walcott, Benedetta Craveri—and to many others identified only by initials.

Joseph took themes from Roman poetry and Mexican literature. He transmuted classical themes into his own powerful narratives, doing good stories, and often looking wryly at himself looking at others:

Since the stern art of poetry calls for words, I, morose,/deaf, and balding ambassador of a more or less/insignificant nation that's stuck in this super/power, wishing to spare my old brain,/put on clothes—all by myself—and head for the main/street: for the evening paper.

—from "The End of a Beautiful Era" (Leningrad 1969)

He mixed the physical and the metaphysical, place and ideas about place, now and the past and the future. His "Watermark" is a journal of Venice that revels in all the other portrayals by artists past—in words, in paint, in music.

It begins on a station platform on a cold December night and much later during a November at sunset, "you sense this light's fatigue as it rests in Zaccaria's marble shells for another hour or so, while the earth is turning its other cheek to the luminary. This is the winter light at its purest. It carries no warmth or energy, having shed them and left them behind somewhere in the universe, or in the nearby cumulus. Its particles' only ambition is to reach an object and make it, big or small, visible. It's a private light, the light of Giorgione or Bellini, not the light of Tiepolo or Tintoretto. And the city lingers in it, savoring its touch, the caress of the infinity whence it came. An object, after all, is what makes infinity private."

Joseph could be wickedly funny and deftly ironic. He could also be glum and occasionally ill-humored. But he was always passionate about poetry, helpful to younger poets and always open to rising talent. The poets whose work he admired are the subjects of some of his best essays—as his recent essay on Stephen Spender in the *New Yorker* testifies. His new book of essays—that I have not seen—*On Grief and Reason*—apparently adds assessments of Thomas Hardy and of Robert Frost, whom he knew and specially admired. He liked those who mixed, as he did, natural landscapes and metaphysical meaning.

The late-blooming poetic language of Russia from Pushkin to Ahkmatova held the key for Joseph to Russia's postcommunist revival. I remember that he said at one of our conferences in 1991: "About this rapid decay of the Empire. I think it has decayed so rapidly because its foundation was less substantial than the foundation of other empires we are familiar with. The empires of the past have been held together, not so much by the legions, but by language."

He will be remembered as one who lived and cared for language, who won a Nobel Prize for verse written primarily in Russian, and yet became over time both a master essayist and a self-translated poet in the English language. We who knew him will not forget his passion, his impish delight in a good story, and his dedication to the craft and work of poetry. As he said at his opening remarks as poet laureate in October, 1991:

"By failing to read or listen to poets, society dooms itself to inferior modes of articulation, those of the politician, the salesman or the charlatan. . . . In other words, it forfeits its own evolutionary potential. For what distinguishes us from the rest of the animal kingdom is precisely the gift of speech. . . . Poetry is not a form of entertainment and in a certain sense not even a form of art, but it is our anthropological, genetic goal, our evolutionary, linguistic beacon."

Jim Higgins

Leokadia Silverstein (above) described her role as a courier for the Jewish underground during World War II; Prosser Gifford greets Patricia Miller before the seminar.

Warsaw Uprisings:

Program Offers Several Interpretations of Events

History's face has many expressions, a metaphor that was amply demonstrated during "Two Uprisings in Warsaw: Retrospectives on 1943 and 1944," a special program presented by the Office of Scholarly Programs in the Madison Building's Mumford Room on Jan. 3.

Four presenters offered a lively, sometimes contentious mix of personal recollection, historical analysis and musical interpretation of these wartime uprisings.

Leokadia Silverstein, a senior cataloger with the Library, gave a moving personal account of the 1943 ghetto uprising—a last-ditch attempt by Warsaw's Jews to evade the Nazi death camps. She was followed by Col. Andrzej Pomian, 85, a distinguished historian who served during the Polish Home Army's insurrection against German occupation in 1944.

Patricia Miller, professor of music at George Mason University and an internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano, performed a song associated with each uprising. Finally, Michael MacQueen, senior historian with the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, provided sometimes controversial analysis of the two events.

The Polish-American Congress, the Polish Library of Washington, the American Center of Polish Culture and the National Capital Area Chapter of the Fulbright Association were among the event's cosponsors. Because of the partial government shutdown, the U.S. Holocaust Research Institute (the scholarly division of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum) was unable to participate as planned. The standing-room-only crowd included distinguished guests such as Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, founder of the Polish-American Congress.

The room was hushed as Ms. Silverstein described her service as a courier for the Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa (ZOB, or Jewish Battle Organization), the underground-Jewish youth league that spearheaded the 1943 uprising. Ms. Silverstein, with her blue eyes, youth and native Polish, posed as an Aryan and smuggled messages, food and weapons into the walled Jewish ghetto. Secret preparations for the uprising took more than a year, hampered by numerous problems, including the constant presence of informers and the reluctance of older Jews to challenge their oppressors.

By April 1943, however, "each fighter had his or her pistol, with the last bullet reserved for themselves because of their steely determination not to fall into the hands of the enemy," recounted Ms. Silverstein. On April 19—the eve of the final mass deportation to the death camps— an uprising was launched.

Though initially the young fighters had the advantage of surprise, the well-armed Germans gradually regained the upper hand. After 27 days of bloody fighting, the uprising finally was crushed in a horrific conflagration that reduced the entire ghetto to rubble. Warsaw's thriving and prosperous prewar Jewish community, which had numbered

around 375,000, was obliterated.

Ms. Silverstein watched the inferno side-by-side with German soldiers and Polish citizens who thought she was Aryan like them. To the Poles the spectacle was a source of morbid curiosity, Ms. Silverstein said. To her, "I was witnessing the end of an 800-year-long presence of Jews in Poland. I felt abandoned by men and God alike."

Her family had died earlier in the war, but the man she loved as well as many friends she had known since childhood were among those who died that day. "I was sobbing on the inside but smiling on the outside so as not to betray my identity. It was such a difficult moment, I can't find words to describe it."

The final act of the Warsaw Jews defies the common perception that Jews in the Holocaust "went to their death like sheep to the slaughter," Ms. Silverstein said. The rebels showed the world that "Jews had risen to the level of fighters for human dignity . . . that the most important things in life are life itself and freedom, and you have to fight for both of them."

Ms. Silverstein received a standing ovation for her moving testimony, which was followed by Ms. Miller's poignant rendition of the Yiddish song, "Varshe" ("Warsaw").

Col. Andrzej Pomian, a prominent historian who served as the voice of the Polish underground on Radio Free Europe in 1946–1977, was responsible for resistance propaganda in the Armia Krajowa (Polish Home Army), which carried out the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

The 1944 event was the largest nationalist protest against Nazi occupation. Warsaw was laid to waste in a battle that lasted 63 days and took up to 300,000 lives.

According to Mr. Pomian, who was assigned to London at the time, the Home Army intended the uprising to be "a final blow" against an enemy collapsing under pressure from the Allies. But the infamous 11th-hour duplicity of the Soviet Red Army—which sat across the Vistula River watching as the revolt was crushed by the Germans—ended that hope. Mr. Pomian described in convincing detail how Stalin arrived at the decision to allow the uprising to fail, neatly eliminating any threat to his own regime from a strong Polish nationalist army.

Though the uprising failed, it may have been an important reason behind Stalin's choice not to absorb Poland into the Soviet Union after the war, said Mr. Pomian. "It underlined the will of the Polish people to be free and independent," he maintained. His assertion was captured musically by Ms. Miller's stirring rendition of the Polish song "Marsz Mokotowa."

But Mr. MacQueen, in his comments on the two events, suggested that the 1944 Warsaw Uprising floundered primarily because the revolt itself was ill-conceived and ill-timed.

"The optimistic targets and timetable were simply unrealistic. In the systematically dynamited rubble of the [Jewish] ghetto, the Poles might have foreseen the fate of the rest of the city," he asserted.

The price of the rebels' valor was high, Mr. MacQueen said—hundreds of thousands of deaths and devastation of the cultural and political heart of Poland. Moreover, Mr. MacQueen argued, in direct contradiction to Col. Pomian, the uprising "delivered not only what was left of Warsaw, but the rest of Poland, into the hands of the communists."

Mr. MacQueen also gave a revisionist view of the Jewish uprising, suggesting the revolutionaries sought only to choose the method of their death.

"'It was always death that was at stake, not life,'" Mr. MacQueen quoted a survivor of the ZOB. To deny the Nazis "the decision of how the Jews died," he added, "was perhaps the ultimate rebellion."

Thus, he concluded, the Warsaw Jews fulfilled their mission while the Polish rebels failed in theirs.

Prosser Gifford, LC's director of Scholarly Programs, said that the two events symbolize "the desire to die affirming . . . what one believes when death is the only assertion left."

—Kristin Knauth

Kristin Knauth is a free-lance writer/editor working temporarily in the Public Affairs Office.

Jim Higgins

Michael MacQueen, a historian, and Andrzej Pomian, a former leader of the Polish Home Army, presented contrasting interpretations of the Warsaw uprisings.

Books & Beyond Launched:

Author Describes Career of Librarian Herbert Putnam

On Jan. 30 the Center for the Book launched its series of lunchtime author lectures, Books & Beyond, with an address by Jane Aikin Rosenberg, author of *The Nation's Great Library: Herbert Putnam and the Library of Congress, 1899–1939* (University of Illinois Press, 1993).

Books & Beyond showcases recent books that rely on Library collections or that speak directly to issues of importance to the Library and its programs. In selecting Dr. Rosenberg's volume, "We felt it was appropriate to begin the series with a book about the Library of Congress itself," explained John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, in his introductory remarks.

Dr. Rosenberg, program officer for the Fellowships for University Teachers program at the National Endowment for the Humanities, drew most of her material from the Library archives in the Manuscript Division from 1983 to 1987. She recalled with nostalgia her days exploring the archives. "I always went home a little grimy, but completely happy because I had these wonderful collections available to me."

She added: "The staff I'm sure learned to groan when they saw me coming. . . . Once one of them told me the Library archives were the most-used collection in the Manuscript Division—and in those days, I think I was almost the only user!"

The Nation's Great Library provides an in-depth look at Putnam's decisive influence during a significant period in its history. Dr. Rosenberg chose Putnam as her subject, she said, "because he and [Ainsworth Rand] Spofford between them encased a huge chunk of American history and Library of Congress history, during the crucial period from the Civil War to World War II. . . . Since John Cole had already done so much excellent work on Spofford, Putnam was a natural choice."

When Putnam assumed the Librarian mantle in April 1899, he adopted Spofford's vision of transforming the Library of Congress into a true "national library." Spofford had laid the foundation by asking Congress for copyright authority to build the collections and the Thomas Jefferson Building to house them.

It fell to Putnam, Dr. Rosenberg said, to complete the job: establish national services, secure funding to pay for the Library's growth and build a skilled professional staff.

Putnam was only 37, but he had already directed the Minneapolis and Boston libraries and had brief stints practicing law. He "was known as an up-and-coming young man with a genius for enterprise and an ability to move large organizations forward," said Dr. Rosenberg.

Right away, Putnam proved himself a winner at obtaining support from Congress. In his first year of office he requested—and got—a whopping 60 percent appropriations increase. He used much of the money to hire professional staff.

At the start of Putnam's tenure the Library was "behind most libraries in almost every way," observed Dr. Rosenberg. By the time he retired, the Library was the undisputed leader of the American library community. Putnam established high standards in every part of the institution. He cultivated private-sector funding sources so the Library could expand its collections and activities. Under his 40-year leadership the staff ballooned from 230 to 1,100.

"What was it like working in the Library of Congress" under Putnam? Dr. Rosenberg asked rhetorically. Perhaps due to his patrician upbringing, Putnam's managerial style was exceptionally formal. All mail was answered by Putnam himself. Staff members often had to stand throughout meetings and could not take notes, since he believed in memorizing orders as they were delivered.

Putnam's latter years at the Library were marred by political friction, especially with Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration. Moreover, despite the burgeoning collections and staff, he insisted on maintaining his rigid, hands-on management style. By the late 1930s, when he was in his 70s, it was clear he could no longer manage a world-class institution.

When he was replaced by Archibald MacLeish in 1939, Putnam was excluded from administration although he retained an office and the title of Librarian Emeritus.

"People didn't want him trying to impose the past on the future," explained Dr. Rosenberg. "They thought he was too set in his ways to see where changes were needed."

Putnam was reputed to be a coldly practical administrator whose "veins ran with ice water." But he also wrote poetry and was an attentive family man who adored his daughters, she noted. His strongest devotion, however, was to the Library.

Dr. Cole related that, after Putnam's retirement, he was once asked why he hadn't written an autobiography. He responded by pointing to the 40 annual reports published during his tenure—which, he said, constituted his autobiography.

Books featured in the Books & Beyond series are available for sale in the Library of Congress Sales Shop, as well as at the talks themselves.

—*Kristin Knauth*

Kristin Knauth is a free-lance writer/editor working in the Public Affairs Office.

A page from one of Michel Butor's "artist's books," which combine text, artwork and design into unique intellectual artifacts

Rare Gifts:

Michel Butor Donates More than 100 Works

Prominent French writer Michel Butor recently donated more than 100 of his works to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

Included in the gift are many of his limited edition, signed artist's books—those books that combine text, illustration, design, paper and binding into works of art that convey information through their construction as well as their textual content. Michel Butor has long been in the forefront of French writers who have collaborated with leading artists to produce books that are important for their artifactual as well as intellectual value.

Mr. Butor came to prominence in the 1950s with his early novels and his association with the New Novelists, writers whose technical experimentations with the literary novel form constituted the most important French literary phenomenon of the 1950s and early 1960s. New Novelists attempted to redefine literary fiction by "problematizing" all aspects of the novel's tradition inherited from the 19th century, including plot, characterization, narrative and reading. During this period Mr. Butor wrote four novels that established his reputation: *Passage de Milan* (1954), *L'Emploi de Temps* (1956), *La Modification* (1957, Prix Renaudot), and *Degrés* (1960).

Since the publication of these novels, much of Mr. Butor's work has been characterized more as *texts* rather than novels and has been done in collaboration with artists, working with the visual and even tactile composition and perception of a text along with its intellectual aspects. Mr. Butor has issued many of his works first in the artist's book format and then in a trade edition. He continues to work actively in the creation and construction of these important books.

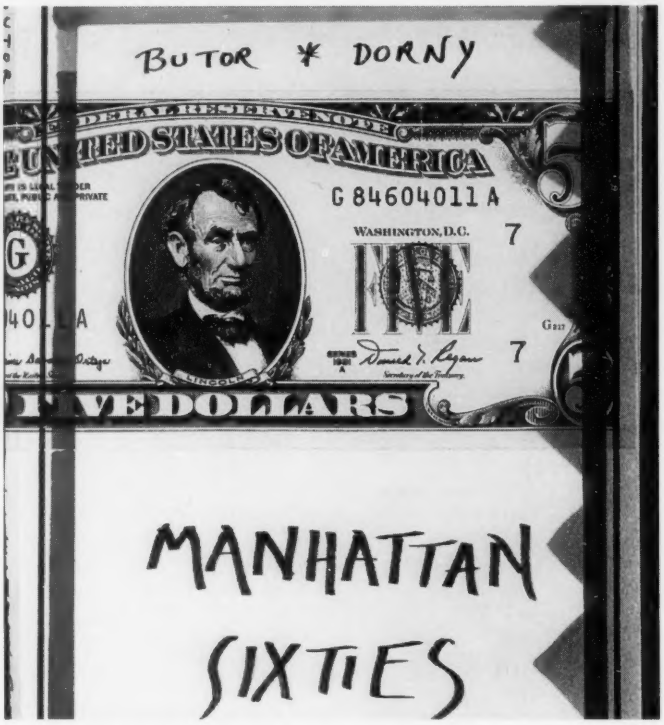
The Library has collected several of Michel Butor's works, and his collection is an appropriate addition to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division's renowned collections in the book arts. These include the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection of Illustrated Books, the Fine Press Collections and the archives or comprehensive holdings, or both, of major book artists and designers, such as Frederic Goudy, Bruce Rogers, Leonard Baskin and Claire Van Vliet.

Michel Butor's works fit into the Library's collections especially well since many take the United States as a theme. The current gift includes, for example, the books *Manhattan Sixties, Un soir à New York* and *Bicentennaire Kit, USA 76*. Artists represented in the works donated include Jean Cortot, Roger Druet, Henri Maccheroni, Patrice Pouperon, and Baruj Salinas.

Michel Butor's gift came to the Library through the generous efforts of Leon Roudiez, professor emeritus at Columbia University, friend of the writer and a prominent scholar of modern French literature and especially of the works of Mr. Butor. Dr. Roudiez and Larry Sullivan, then chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, met in 1992 at an artist's-books exhibition opening at Columbia University in New York and discussed their mutual interest in the works of Michel Butor. Dr. Roudiez and Dr. Sullivan relayed the Library's interest to Mr. Butor, and he decided to make this gift of his works to the nation's library. Mr. Butor's gift continues the Rare Book Division's active collecting in the field of the modern book in all its variations.

—Larry Sullivan and Carol Armbruster

Larry Sullivan is former chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and is currently professor and chief librarian of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY. Carol Armbruster is the French and Italian area specialist in the Library's European Division.



The cover of Michel Butor's artist's book *Manhattan Sixties, Un soir à New York*, now in the Library's collections

Federal Research Division Issues Studies On Greece, Belarus, Moldova

The Library of Congress Federal Research Division has issued two new country studies in a series published under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army: *Greece: A Country Study,* (Glenn E. Curtis, editor) and *Belarus and Moldova: Country Studies* (Helen Fedor, editor).

The series consists of 109 titles and covers about 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. Typically, a book in the series is intended as an introduction to a country and describes and analyzes its history, society, economy, government, politics and national security. Books about more than one country (such as the Belarus-Moldova book) cover the same subjects in a more condensed form. All books in the series are hardbound and contain maps, charts, photographs, tables, chapter bibliographies, a glossary and an index.

Over 1 million copies of the books in the series have been sold and more than 200,000 copies have been distributed to depository libraries throughout the United States.

A list of books in print in the series is available from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4840.

To purchase the books, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Titles and stock numbers must be cited when ordering (Greece—$22, 008-020-01379-0; Belarus and Moldova—$17, 008-020-01380-3). Include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

Country studies can also be purchased through the Sales Shop, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4985.

News from the Center for the Book:

Cultural Historian Kevin Starr to Lecture on March 27

Kevin Starr—historian, journalist and state librarian of California—will speak on "California Libraries, Culture and Dreams" at 6 p.m. on March 27 in the Mumford Room in the Library's Madison Building. Sponsored by the Center for the Book, Dr. Starr's talk is free and open to the public.

"We are fortunate to have Kevin Starr as a speaker in our series of programs about libraries and American culture," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "His prodigious historical knowledge of California and practical experience as a writer and library administrator give him a unique perspective on our topic."

Kevin Starr is probably best known for his ambitious, multi-volume cultural history of California. Published by Oxford University Press, the books thus far are: *Americans and the California Dream, 1850–1915* (1973); *Inventing the Dream: California Through the Progressive Era* (1985); *Material Dreams: Southern California Through the 1920s* (1990); and *Endangered Dreams: The Great Depression in California* (1996).

Dr. Starr was appointed state librarian by Gov. Pete Wilson in 1994. He served as city librarian of San Francisco in 1973–76. He currently divides his time between his home in San Francisco, the State Library in Sacramento and Los Angeles, where he is a professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Southern California.

He was a daily columnist for the San Francisco Examiner from 1977 to 1983 and currently is a contributing editor for the *Los Angeles Times*. He received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1969 and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of California in 1974.

The lecture is cosponsored by the California Center for the Book, which promotes California's literary heritage through symposia, projects and publications.

For information, write or call Vickie Lockhart, California Center for the Book, 1225 Eighth St., Suite 345, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 447-6331.

☐ **Arizona Center for the Book to Host Robert Hass.** The Library of Congress's eighth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, Robert Hass, will read from his poetry on Sunday, March 24, in Phoenix at a program sponsored by the Arizona Center for the Book. The event, which is open to the public, will take place at 3 p.m. at the Wrigley Conference Center, 6001 24th St. For information and reservations, call (602) 265-2651.

"Robert Hass is the first Poet Laureate from a Western state," said Phyllis Steckler, president of the Arizona Center for the Book and of Phoenix-based Oryx Press. "It's appropriate that he be honored here in Arizona, and we're very excited by the prospect."

Mr. Hass's appearance is part of the "Feast for the Mind" Authors Series sponsored by the Arizona center, which is one of the 30 state affiliates of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Established in 1988, the Arizona Center for the Book's purpose is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, libraries and literacy. It is a nonprofit organization with a volunteer board of directors that funds its projects through contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations.

☐ **Center for the Book Hosts NCLIS Anniversary Celebration.** The 25th anniversary of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) was celebrated in the Library's Madison Hall on Dec. 14, at a reception

Historian Kevin Starr will speak about California libraries and culture on March 27.

cosponsored by NCLIS and the Center for the Book. Speakers included Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, who saluted NCLIS and its accomplishments; NCLIS Chairperson Jeanne Hurley Simon; Lt. Gen. C.M. Kicklighter, deputy undersecretary of the Army for International Affairs; Betty Turock, president of the American Library Association; NCLIS Commissioner Barbara J.H. Taylor; and Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole.

The 125 guests included two new commissioners, Abe Abramson and Walter Anderson, and former NCLIS commissioners Charles Benton, Elinor Hashim, Charles Reid, Lee Edwards, Elinor M. Swaim, and William J. Welsh, former Deputy Librarian of Congress, who represented Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin on the commission.

In his remarks, Dr. Billington recognized Winston Tabb, who currently represents him on the commission. NCLIS Chairperson Jeanne

Simon acknowledged the contributions of Executive Director Peter Young and paid a tribute to three former commissioners who died in 1995: Joseph Becker, Daniel Casey and Bessie Boehm Moore, "who persuaded, cajoled, threatened and led us to do some of our best work."

John Cole said the Center for the Book was pleased to cosponsor its third NCLIS anniversary reception. The other celebrations took place on Nov. 18, 1986, marking NCLIS's 15th birthday, and on Jan. 23, 1991, when first lady Barbara Bush received NCLIS's Twentieth Anniversary Recognition Award at a program at the Library.

☐ **First Illinois Book Fair Held. More than 3,000 book lovers and 75** Illinois authors were honored on Nov. 17 and 18, 1995, at the Illinois Center for the Book's "Illinois Authors Literary Dinner and Book Fair" in Springfield. Cosponsored with the Illinois State Library, the event featured book signings, readings, storytelling, panel discussions, exhibits and celebrity appearances. The proceeds are being used to enlarge the State Library's Illinois Authors Collection.

"We were thrilled with this year's event and invite everyone to join us on Oct. 18 and 19, 1996, for next year's Book Fair," said Bridget L. Lamont, director of the Illinois State Library. Ms. Lamont was one of the speakers at the dinner on Nov. 17, along with Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian George H. Ryan, and John W. Berry, president of the Illinois Center for the Book and an associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In his remarks, Mr. Berry thanked the Book Fair's 20 corporate sponsors, particularly Ameritech, the major sponsor, and paid tribute to John Ison, the previous head of the Illinois center, "for four years of extraordinary service and leadership."

He thanked the many Illinois authors who took time to become involved in the Book Fair. In closing, he quickly reviewed the other reading promotion activities of the Illinois Center for the Book, which is embarking on its second decade of promoting the book culture and authors of Illinois. For example, last year Governor Jim Edgar proclaimed October 1995 as "Read Illinois" month.

His proclamation recognized the role of the Illinois Center for the Book in promoting the state's literary heritage, mentioning in particular the authors Carl Sandburg, Ernest Hemingway, Edgar Lee Masters, Vachel Lindsay and John Dos Passos. Mr. Berry also described how the Illinois Center for the Book, in cooperation with the University of Illinois Press, is publishing Prairie State Books, a series of reprints of classic Illinois books. He also described the colorful new poster featuring 113 Illinois authors that the Illinois center recently published.

For information about obtaining the poster and the activities of the Illinois Center for the Book, which are described in the center's newsletter, *News & Views*, write or call the Friends of the Illinois Center for the Book, 300 S. Second St., Springfield,IL 62701, (217) 524–8835. For information about Prairie State Books, write or call the University of Illinois Press, 1325 S. Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820, (800) 545–4703.

Sen. Paul Simon at the NCLIS reception with Jeanne Hurley Simon and Dr. Billington

Beijing Women's Conference:
U.N. Delegate to Meeting Speaks at LC

The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing Sept. 4–13, was a groundbreaking meeting that could have positive effects for women throughout the world, Ginger Ehn Lew, general counsel at the Department of Commerce, told an audience of LC staffers on Dec. 15.

Ms. Lew was invited to speak by the Library's Asian American Association. Ms. Lew, who grew up in California, was one of 44 official U.S. delegates to the conference. While there she also attended the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Forum, which was held concurrently outside Beijing. The Forum attracted some 40,000 women and men from 189 nations, including 7,000 Americans, and made important headlines of its own.

Ms. Lew had visited China previously and she gave her impressions on recent changes there. The quality of life for China's citizens has improved, she said, and business efficiency and technological availability have increased throughout the country.

On the other hand, she echoed the reports of U.S. media during the conference that the Chinese government was overly zealous in its security preparations, including delaying visa approval for NGO conferees who were already U.N.-certified and cordoning off conference areas from the local populace.

Despite the many serious logistical problems, Ms. Lew said, most of those participating in the conference believed that when its recommendations are implemented in the participants' home countries, they will have an impact on women around the world.

Women's rights are now viewed as converging with human rights issues—a point that was emphasized at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. Ms. Lew quoted first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the honorary chairwoman of the U.S. delegation, in Beijing: "If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights."

The energy, excitement and hope shared by those participating in the Beijing conference was undeniable, Ms. Lew said. The many official sessions—plus the numerous informal meetings at the NGO Forum and other venues—allowed for discussion of a myriad of issues.

Participants had the opportunity to speak with counterparts from around the world, whose occupations ranged from farmers and domestic workers to policy makers and heads of state. Ms. Lew herself has had followup meetings with individuals she met at the conference, she said, during subsequent visits to their countries in her work with the Commerce Department.

The Platform for Action that emerged from the conference includes groundbreaking language, representing progress in awareness of women's issues and basic rights principles, Ms. Lew said.

The final platform (together with its preamble, the Beijing Declaration) was adopted by consensus of the delegations of all 189 participating nations at the close of the 10-day conference. Earlier drafts underwent round-the-clock discussion to sift out language deemed too controversial and to accommodate religious, cultural and ethical differences. Ultimately, Ms. Lew said, the document represents the strongest internationally agreed-upon statement on women's rights to date.

Ms. Lew highlighted some of the major points of the platform. Lifetime health care and education for women have direct benefits for their earning potential, the longevity of their children and the well-being of the elderly. Improving workplace conditions, strengthening employment equality and removing barriers to education and training for all girls are other important goals.

The platform also acknowledges women's contributions to the family, as the core unit of society, and to society as a whole. Finally, it condemns all forms of violence against women.

Ms. Lew pointed out that the platform is the first multilateral document to incorporate steps toward measuring the value of nonpaid work performed by women. There is also a focus on increasing women's access to credit, to promote their full participation in the world's economies.

"Nairobi was a compass, Beijing is a detailed map" for promoting women's progress, Ms. Lew quoted an NGO representative as saying at the conference. Ninety nations, including the United States, committed to carrying out the principles in the Platform for Action. Many, including the U.S. delegation, have since held meetings to plan followup actions.

Realistically, Ms. Lew said, budget constraints may call for redirecting nations' resources to new programs or for refocusing existing programs to address issues articulated in the platform. NGOs are important partners in translating principles into action at the community level, she added.

—Laura Wong

Laura Wong works in the Asian Division and is program chair of the Library's Asian American Association.

On the Road:

Women Journalists Exhibition Tours the Country

The Library of Congress exhibition "Women Come to the Front: Journalists, Photographers and Broadcasters During World War II" will travel from Central Michigan University to St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., and remain on view until May 7 (see below for complete schedule).

The exhibition, which ended its successful run at the Library on Dec. 9, highlights the accomplishments of eight women who broke down barriers during World War II to become respected members of the press in newsrooms and in the field.

The display offers a snapshot of the women journalists' stories, told through their papers and photographs, held in the Library's collections. While featuring their achievements, the exhibition also commemorates the anniversary of the end of World War II, the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage and the founding of the Women's National Press Club in 1919 by Washington newswomen.

The Interpretive Programs Office sponsored the panel discussion "Coming to the Front: Women Journalists in World War II and Beyond," on Nov. 9, while the exhibition was still on display in the Library's Madison Building.

The four women panelists captivated the audience with their personal accounts of how they broke into journalism during World War II. All remain active journalists.

Lyn Crost, author of *Honor by Fire: Japanese Americans at War in Europe and the Pacific,* recalled the first job she held: at a newspaper in Providence, R.I., which went bankrupt while she was there. "I was paid 10 cents an inch for my stories, which I thought was a lot of money at the time," she recalled.

Ms. Crost moved to Hawaii to work for the *Honolulu Advertiser,* a job that later, at the start of World War II, set the stage for another professional break. Just a few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor she moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the Associated Press. When the United States entered the war, her Hawaiian experience qualified her to become the European correspondent for the *Honolulu Star Bulletin,* covering the Japanese-American 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In Paris, however, at the headquarters of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe (SHAPE), Ms. Crost learned that male reporters were briefed on the latest troop movements while she was not.

"Females were quite unique in the press corps," said Ms. Crost. "They didn't think women knew enough to report on military matters."

The Japanese-American soldiers from Hawaii, on the other hand, were happy to have her tell their story. Some of them had just come from fierce fighting at the front, which they readily recounted to her.

For veteran reporter Sarah McClendon, now of McClendon News Service, the break into the male-dominated bastions of journalism came when she became a pioneering member of the newly formed Women's Army Corps (WAC). With $21 in her pocket—all the money she had at the time—she set out for basic training, then was assigned to a public affairs office in Georgia.

Photojournalist Therese Bonney with her flak helmet and Rolleiflex camera

Ms. McClendon and her female colleagues were in demand to fill reporting jobs so men could leave for the front lines. She was ordered to Washington to help recruit more women for the WACs. Eventually she was allowed to cover two subjects that previously had been off-limits for female reporters: the White House and Congress.

"We were pioneers who had to push back the frontier and establish a role for women," Ms. McClendon told the audience.

Her military days came to an end when she became pregnant. "Back in those times, you had to get out," said Ms. McClendon. "However, I would still recommend the military for a career because of the discipline it teaches you."

When Frances Murphy, now publisher of the *Washington Afro-American*, came of working age, her family had already started her on the road to a journalism career. Four older sisters—and a father who longed for sons but had to settle for treating his daughters like boys—had paved the way.

Like her older sisters, Ms. Murphy graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in journalism. She returned to the family publishing business as the war was raging and found her niche writing stories based on the letters her sister—a WAC—sent back from Europe.

Ms. Murphy's account of her sister's experience covering the Afro-American troops on the front lines contrasted sharply with the experience of the other women journalists, who were not given this type of access. "In our experience, women were treated like men," said Ms. Murphy. "Once we broke down the barriers, there was no turning back."

Frances Lewine, assignment editor for Cable News Network, graduated from Hunter College just after the attack on Pearl Harbor and landed her first job at the *New York Daily News*, replacing a columnist who was drafted. "Before, all we could hope for was to become a copy girl," said Ms. Lewine.

After receiving personal insults from male journalists because of her gender, Ms. Lewine searched for a job with another paper and was hired by the Plainfield (N.J.) *Courier-News*. Her report at a Navy plane crash site earned her her first byline, she said.

"Eventually, I came to Washington and was most fortunate to cover the first ladies," said Ms. Lewine. "Evening social events provided easy access for the press, and later on I was able to parlay this experience into a full-fledged White House correspondent's job."

Ms. Lewine recounted the 20-year battle women fought to join the National Press Club. The walls came down when Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev refused to go to the Press Club unless women could cover the event. According to Ms. Lewine, President Kennedy knocked down the barriers at the Gridiron Club by declaring that he would not go unless women were welcome.

All of the panelists agreed that getting their foot in the door during World War II proved to everyone that women could do just as well as men in journalism.

"Women Come to the Front: Journalists, Photographers and Broadcasters During World War II" will be on view at the Elmhurst Historical Museum in Illinois Aug. 19–Oct. 18; at the Duluth Public Library in Minnesota, Nov. 9, 1996–Jan. 3, 1997; at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historcial Museum in Wichita, Kan., February through mid-April 1997; at the Gateway National Recreation Area in Brooklyn, N.Y., April 26–June 27, 1997; at the Florida Center for the Book in Fort Lauderdale, July 21–Sept. 22, 1997; and at the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville, Oct. 8–Dec.8, 1997.

—*Joan Weeks*

Joan Weeks is a public affairs specialist with the Library's National Reference Service.

War correspondent May Craig with servicemen on a July 24, 1944, tour of European battlefields

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